THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL

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Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address

COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VII.---NO. 11. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 15, 1870.

THE DAILY COMMERCIAL,

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMERCIAL PRINTING COMPANY

OFFICE, 76 FIFTH AVENUE, (OPPOSITE POSTOFFICE.)

C. D. BRIGHAM, - - - - Editor.

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TERMS OF THE DAILY:

Single Copy.....5 Cents.
Delivered by Carrier (per week).....$ 25
Subscribers by Mail, (per year).....$10 00

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THE COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

ALONE.

Oh that a wind would call
From the depths of the leafless wood!
Oh that a voice would fall
On the ear of my solitude!
For away is the sea,
With its sounds and its spirit-tone:
Over it white clouds flee,
But I am alone, alone.

Straight and steady and tall
The trees stand on their feet!
Fast by the old stone wall
The moss grows green and sweet;
But my heart is full of fears,
For the sun shines far away;
And they look in my face through tears,
And the light of a dying day.

And my heart was glad last night
As I pressed it with my palm;
Its throb was after my mind
As it sang some spirit-psalm;
But it died away in my breast
As I wandered forth to-day—
As a bird sat dead on its nest,
While the others sang on the spray.

Oh weary heart of mine,
Is there ever a truth for thee?
Will ever a sun outshine
But the sun that shines on me?
Away, away through the air
The clouds and the leaves are blown;
And my heart hath learned of prayer,
For it sitteth above, alone.

—[From "Robert Falconer," by George MacDonald.

MINNA'S BETROTHAL.

It was toward the middle of February, 183-. Whether it was really necessary or not, I do not remember; but I wanted to take the night diligence from Corkum to Nimeguen. My friends were unanimous in their opinion that it was a risky thing. I was obstinate, however, and went.

The queer names I have just mentioned, may give the reader some clew to the queer country where I was travelling. A strange country indeed, Holland!—a continued conquest over the grim North Sea, made up of polders and dikes and canals and marshes, with two or three stout rivers, now and then making sad inroads with the Alpine and Norwegian snows begin to melt, and carry more water than the honest Dutchman can swallow. Holland!—a queer country, but with a staunch and thrifty population, magnificent barns, cattle, and exquisite tulips and hyacinths, and the prettiest, freshest, loveliest girls you can imagine.

Well, I mounted the diligence—a clumsy, heavy-laden thing, with four stout horses—the postilion cracked his whip, and off we started.

Now, knowing my impatient nature is, you can further imagine it to be high enough to enable you to look into the chimneys of the many houses that stood alongside the road. Over the extensive plain called Massen-waal, lying between the Rhine and the Waal, or lesser river, carry its course, and swelled so as to reach within a few inches of the summit of the dikes. Woe to the village, or to the house in it, where the water begins to ooze through. It soon makes a gap, and then a torrent; and irresistible for it, the waters rush in and overflow all—oftentimes sweeping away houses, and leaving in their place covering the whole country into a vast lake.

This was the last trip the sturdy postmaster of the village we intended to pass through had warned him of several threatened *doorbreeks*, but he thought he could reach Nimeguen and get home at Nimeguen; and, with three passengers only, he had started on his perilous way. Of the three—a young man, a fat old lady, and I, who, by his three-cornered hat, white cravat, and dark cloak, seemed a *Domine*—I was the unsecond-hand himself in the corner of the back seat. On the middle seat was a young girl, apparently between fifteen and sixteen years. I usually occupied the middle seat; and this time, especially, was satisfied that it was the best as to the *Logement*.

But if you have never been in Holland, how shall I describe to you the costume of a girl of the middle class? The sturdy maid of North Brabant, with her dark hair pressing through the thin flowered kerchief, or the close white bonnet; the good-natured, healthy, *Gelderschen* with her green and square bodice, and covering with fluted rim; the rather pradish-looking maid of the Hague and Leyden, with her neat cloak, so very neat that it seems as if pretty face in a rim of fluted lace—somewhat reminding one of Mary Stuart: and last, not least, the proud and handsome Frieslander, or maiden—for Friesland, oh beautifully modest, of a complexion so delicate that it might put one to envy, but could scarcely equal, and dressed in gowns of soft, but pleasing colors, over which a limited Cheveley, of Leyden, or Haarlem, or Amsterdam would look with

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1870.

THE STATE TREASURER-SHIP.

The Legislature, on the third ballot Wednesday, elected Gen. W. W. IRWIN State Treasurer, over ROBERT W. MACKEY, by nine majority. Fifteen Republicans refused to be bound by the caucus nomination of Mr. MACKEY,—in making which all or nearly all of them took no part—and adhered to Gen. IRWIN. The Democrats, after voting for their candidate, Mr. BARR, cast their votes for Gen. IRWIN, and a result was thus achieved that will create in the hearts of the Republican masses of Pennsylvania more genuine joy than has for a long time been felt there. The news of the defeat of Mr. MACKEY will spread throughout the State as glad tidings inaugurating a new era in our State politics,—a proclamation from the capital that a nomination not fit to be made, though sanctioned by fifty caucuses, it is the right and duty of Republicans to put down. Those Republicans in the Legislature who have acted up to this line stand on high ground. They occupy an impregnable position, supported by well-defined, openly expressed, perfectly unmistakable popular sentiment. Mr. MACKEY's caucus nomination was obtained by controlling the machinery which has been broken in a thousand pieces; and the example will be everywhere imitated whenever moral principle and the good of the party require it.

The result and the manner of it are strictly in accordance with the bold suggestion of Gov. GEARY in his message. After tersely enumerating some of the most glaring of the reasons for reforming the Treasury system and the abuses which surround the annual struggle for the office, the Governor said:

"Then, in the name of the good people" "of Pennsylvania, I call upon the members" "of the Legislature, *without distinction of*" "*party, to rise above the murkiness of the*" "*political atmosphere of the past, to the true*" "*dignity of manhood and exalted patriotism,*" "and purify the election of Treasurer as" "well as that of every officer within this" "Commonwealth, and punish every one" "who tampers with the purity of elections." "And then every one who shall have" "performed his whole duty to sustain the" "true interests of the State, and to maintain" "the high dignity of her character, may" "retire unpolluted with a clear" "conscience to his constituents, who will" "receive him with open arms, and with" "the joyful exclamation of 'well done,'" "good and faithful servant.'"

This invitation to act "without distinction of party" was promptly accepted by a sufficient number of the Representatives of both parties, and the Treasury "Ring" have been taught a lesson which they will never forget. The occasion called for the exercise of the qualities of boldness and honesty; and right well have those Republicans who accepted the call of the Governor, and refused to bow to the tyranny of caucus, done their duty. The Republican masses, the whole people, at home, and everywhere, will applaud and sustain them.

Gen. IRWIN is a Republican without reproach. After holding the office one year, with credit to himself and advantage to the State, he was defeated for a second term by the most corrupt combination our State has ever known. A whole year was spent by the Treasury Ring perfecting plans for "putting the MACKEY slate through." All their plans have failed, to the utter dismay of the actors in the plot. Their insolence and corrupt practices have been properly rebuked by the people.

PRINCE NAPOLEON AND ROCHEFORT.

Prince NAPOLEON, cold and phlegmatic in appearance, has long been known to be a man of fiery and ungovernable soul. At this distance from the scene, and with our scant knowledge of the facts of the case, there would be small satisfaction in speculating about the murderous affair which has created so profound a sensation in Paris. It will, no doubt, be everywhere regarded as of more importance just now, in the present attitude of things in France, than if it had taken place some years ago. The homicide will likely prove an event of historical significance in its influence upon the future of the BONAPARTE dynasty. We may pretty confidently look upon it in this light, even though we may be quite unable to anticipate its effects. Prince NAPOLEON and LOUIS NAPOLEON have not always sustained pleasant relations with each other. The character and antecedents of the Prince are certainly a cause of deep anxiety to the Emperor in forecasting his own death and the chances of being succeeded by his son. And it is no secret that the policy and declarations of the Emperor have often been regarded by the Prince with unconcealed distrust. But one can hardly imagine any grounds of alienation between these relatives which could have withstood the assaults of the *Lanterne* man upon the NAPOLEON family. His object has evidently been to degrade the entire stock in the estimation of the world, while his attacks upon its two most conspicuous members in license of abuse and, it may be, in calumny, have been so virulent as to disgust many Republicans. One result of the affair will undoubtedly be to give additional importance, at least pro-minence, to the man of the *Lanterne* and to his new journal, *La Marseillaise*. In the account of the encounter by the Prince himself, he is represented as saying to the men who called upon him, "It is ROCHEFORT and not his creatures that I seek."

Though every reader knows more or less concerning this notorious, if not famous man, they may not be displeased to read a few facts regarding his career, which we derive from an article about him that appeared in the widely circulated German magazine, the *Gartenlaube*, in 1868. In this article we are reminded that, if M. ROCHEFORT has personally reviled the Imperial family, they have paid him in kind. It is alleged that they have employed a pack of mercenary writers to assail not only himself but his mother and his daughter, only twelve years old, with the vilest personalities, and that under the irritation produced by these imputations some of ROCHEFORT's indiscretions have been committed. This savage satirist is not of plebeian birth, it seems; HENRI ROCHEFORT is the son of the Marquis de ROCHEFORT-LUCAY. He is somewhat above thirty years old, a tall, slender man, with an imposing front and a lean, sharply defined face, which is set off by a dark mustache. His glance has in part a certain, and the expression of his entire physiognomy is full of meaning. In personal intercourse he is exceedingly amiable and free from pretension, without a trace of the blustering, hectoring ways so common among Frenchmen. Only one dishonoring trait can be justly charged upon him: he is a passionate gambler, and in the indulgence of this propensity, he got rid, as soon as acquired, of the considerable sums derived from his *Lanterne*, which were probably not less than from fifteen to twenty thousand francs a week. ROCHEFORT formerly held an office under the Prefect of the Seine, Baron HAUSSMANN; he was then Inspector of the Fine Arts until he entered upon his career as a journalist. In this character he was first engaged on the *Charivari*, then on the *Nain Jaune* and finally on the *Figaro*, of which last named paper he was for years one of the most distinguished and best paid collaborators. He would perhaps be still in this position which brought him a salary of two thousand francs a month, if the editor of the *Figaro* had not dismissed him, upon warning from the Minister of the Interior. To this circumstance *The Lanterne* owes its origin. This journal, which first made ROCHEFORT known abroad, had at one time a circulation of a hundred and fifty thousand subscribers, and probably had more than a million of readers in France alone. Its renown over the continent was so great that, for a time, it was regularly translated into German. But, as the editor of the *Gartenlaube* remarks, ROCHEFORT's wit is too specifically French to be easily transfused into a foreign tongue; or even to be fully appreciated by any but French people, we may add.

ROCHEFORT is now a member of the legislative body, and is reported to have produced a rather favorable impression upon his colleagues. The Emperor permitted a sneering smile to glide over his face when ROCHEFORT's name was read on the day of the opening. On the nearest opportunity he of the *Lanterne* took his revenge by a killing allusion to the celebrated eagle. Some say that the manner in which the thing was done was better and more effective than the allusion itself, and that the Imperial sneer was well punished.

In French history important events have sometimes proceeded from or been much influenced by comparatively small and insignificant things. Journalists also play a great part in France, even under the present press regulations, and for this and other reasons perhaps ROCHEFORT and his colleagues are as well worthy of attention as the Prince NAPOLEON.

AN EXCELLENT FIELD FOR INQUIRY.

A desire to acquire useful information is always commendable. Therefore we are disposed to regard with favor the action of Mr. DAVID WATSON, a prominent Liberal, and a canny Scotchman, who seeks positive information concerning the working of the ballot in this country. DAVID has sent over a circular letter, indorsed by JOHN STUART MILL, made up of pointed inquiries concerning this matter. It will doubtless appear surprising to the majority of our readers, but it is nevertheless true, that Messrs. WATSON and MILL labor under the impression that we are not of one opinion concerning the ballot. We say surprising, because the steamers that depart and arrive at New York almost with the regularity of clock work, carry back and forth thousands upon thousands of intelligent citizens of both countries, who, one would think, would exchange impressions and ideas sufficient to disabuse the erroneous impressions upon matters of this nature, to say nothing of the testimonies likely to be taken up their residence abroad, or that of the largely increasing class of English-Americans.

We can only account for the doubts, if not downright ignorance, displayed in Messrs. WATSON and MILL's course, by attributing it to the positive utterances of that class of English tourists whose impressions are received, so to speak, on the wing, in their rapid flight from New York to St. Louis or Chicago. The majority of works published in England, for the special information of Englishmen, treating upon matters and things in the United States, from the splenetic effusions of MOORE and TROLLOPE, to the complimentary performances of WENTWORTH DILKE, all alike display a remarkable family resemblance in that their authors betray the habit of jumping, rather than feeling their way to conclusions.

It is not difficult to account for the indulgence of this habit. Those who represent the foremost nation on the globe cannot afford to betray ignorance even concerning things about which they know little. Thus it happens that when they are suddenly nonplussed by a totally new phase of affairs presented for their contemplation, and discover in an unmistakable *fact* much that they cannot understand, much less reconcile with preconceived ideas, they straightway proceed to account for the fresh facts by a process of reasoning such as conflicts least with previously expressed convictions.

Mr. WATSON's circular is one of the strongest proofs of the correctness of this frequent charge against English tourists that could be desired. It has been well said that the ballot is accepted by all parties and sects, "advanced" or retrograde, wise or foolish, as one of the ultimate facts of our system, and this for various reasons, the principal of which are, that it is the quickest and most convenient mode of collecting the suffrages of large constituencies; that it is certainly the system under which voters are most effectually protected against intimidation and bribers rendered least certain of getting the value of their money.

We trust, however, that the inquirers will not pause merely with the evidence they will obtain in favor of the ballot. A thorough investigation of its workings in this country cannot fail to disabuse the inquirers of the impression which obtains in England, to wit, that through its operations American elections are the synonym for all that is corrupt and dishonest, and that in consequence of the depravity displayed in its practical operations, well meaning and high minded gentlemen are compelled to forego the exercise of their political rights. An honest comparison of English and American elections cannot fail to set at rest the reckless statements made in the British Parliament, and in English journals, for it will be seen then that surveillance and bribery, the two things that neutralize popular suffrage, are brought to perfection in Great Britain, and that the Americans are mere tyros at the business.

"QUESTION 1st. Are there no safeguards thrown around those offices to secure their faithful discharge?

"Second. Have the heads of departments absolute power to discharge them, or are they limited by law to the faithful performance of certain functions?

"Third. Is the Senate of offices subordinate to lawful inspection, *any not principal offices or heads?*

"Fourth. Has the House of Representatives the right to know what their representatives and those *heads* are doing with the money of the people?

"Fifth. Is there any way by which the people can ascertain and prevent the misuse of power, and thereby from squandering or misappropriating the public money?"

The correspondent signing himself "Inquirer," asked these questions in the COMMERCIAL of yesterday. Our object in referring to them at present, is not to attempt to answer them, or any one of them, at least directly, but to direct attention to the condition of mind which evidently prompted "Inquirer" to ask them. This correspondent is plainly not a professional politician, and the whole tenor of his communication indicates a citizen interested in the fortunes of his country as his country, and because he has fought to maintain its institutions. It discloses an anxiety about the public concerns similar in degree and intensity to the anxiety with which the owner of an estate, or the head of a family inquires respecting the conduct of his agents. It is pitiable to think that this tone does not betray the spirit of a local statesman, or man inside politics. That wonderfully constituted creature is, we know, moved alternately with contempt and compassion in the contemplation of simple-minded, patriotic zeal for public economy. He entertains no contracted views on this subject, holding them unworthy of his character. He knows that common people have very narrow, even low notions about economy. Like Mat-o-the-Mint, in the Beggar's Opera, he knows that "the world is avaricious," and like that philosopher, "he hates avarice;" like JEMMY in the same play, he has a horror of being "more honest than the rest of mankind." There is no use in such virtue, he thinks; it is not appreciated. However strongly these liberal notions may appeal to our sympathies, we are convinced that in our politics they have worked mischief in the past. The State, even the National Treasury is not bottomless, their supplies are not infinite, public money is just as hardly earned and costs as much toil as the money of the individual, and to misappropriate, or take a dollar of it unlawfully is just as much robbery as to take a dollar from a private till. These propositions, however strange or extravagant they seem, must be received as true and acted upon rigorously by our officials, if we are to continue a great and prosperous nation. And the people must see to it themselves that they are not robbed. *They have the matter in their own hands; if they shall continue to be plundered, it will be their own fault.* But in order to any effective interference with the prevailing corruption, they must lay aside the apparent or real indifference and the blind trust with which they have hitherto submitted to spoliation. The letter of Inquirer shows the right feeling and spirit. Much is said about the intelligence of the people, about our school system, &c. It is true that the people are intelligent, but intelligence without attention will not save them. Neither geographical details nor algebraic principles in themselves qualify the citizen to protect himself, his family and his country against their most dangerous enemies. But let them once realize their duties and their power and the necessity of doing the former and exercising the latter, and their intelligence will be of essential service. It will make their work and their victory sure and easy.

The truth is that our Republican institutions are so young that the people have not yet fully learned either the difficulties or the dangers with which they have to contend. They in consequence very generally fail to understand their responsibilities. Some will be surprised by the statement, but perhaps it is true, that we are still much influenced by notions of administration handed down from colonial times. The recent tremendous convulsion through which we have passed, and especially developments in the operation of our Government since the war, have done more to destroy these traditional notions than was done in all the interval between the Revolution and 1860. In England the Government, the entire military and civil administration is in the hands of a class. True, the popular element is powerful there, but the effect of popular clamor or opinion is simply to influence the action of the governing class. This class surely practice some abuses and tolerate more. But many, it may be most of these objectionable things, are sanctioned by long duration, having come down from other times. The lowest civil servants are, however, strictly accountable to this class, or to members of it, while the higher civil servants are taken from it, and are amenable to it for the manner in which they fulfil their duties. And it is only the truth to say that this English ruling class are well educated, and, in at least an average degree, honorable. But the important point is, that they are all in subjection to a code of social and official morality, the infraction of whose laws entails penalties of a very terrible character. As the result of this arrangement, every one probably knows that, after all necessary abatements have been made, the financial administratisn of England is the purest in the world. That is, there is less peculation either on a small or a great scale than in any other country. Certainly there is as little. This system, in all its essential features, once existed in this country. With its advantages or disadvantages we are not at present concerned, as our object is merely to point out its effect upon the popular mind. Our fathers were accustomed to confide in the subordinate financial officials, because they knew them to be subject to a supervision from above of the sternest kind. A habit of trust was thus formed which continued to operate when the change of government had removed the ancient surveillance. Under the monarchy the king was the fountain of honor, and aristocratic society held its members amenable for violations of morality inconsistent with what was due to the king. Peculation occupied a high place among such violations of duty. In a republic the people are the source of honor—and if they are wise they will hold their servants to a strict accountability for offenses against them. Our public men are neither more honest nor more dishonest than public men everywhere. But men everywhere to whom large sums of money are entrusted, must know themselves to be under sharp supervision, or there is great danger that they will yield to the temptation of their position. It is for the people to see to it that their honor is sustained by the knowledge that a very disagreeable penalty awaits their fall. One thing is certain; if the people do not watch over and guard their own interests, nobody will do it for them. As we have already once said—the matter is in their own hands, and we confess, to us it seems that the very salvation of the country is dependent upon their action.

THE New York *Post*, in an article on Prison Reform in that State, says:

"There is one encouraging feature in the report which will inspire with confidence those who are writing the laborious history of the progress of civilization. It is the gradual change in the laws and their administration for many years past, by which the discipline of the prisons has been steadily becoming one of reformation instead of infliction, and the good results which have become apparent in the conduct of discharged convicts. The evil has not disappeared, and with it nearly every form of suffering endured by the wretched beings who have been introduced for the prisoners; a small sum of money has been given to them at their discharge, and they have been permitted to save honest labor. The Legislature has authorized a commutation of sentence for certain good conduct, and rewards have been established for the ignorant: funeral services prevail instead of over the dead, and respect to the insane and to women giving birth to children in the prisons."

To any one who has studied the subject of criminals with sufficient attention to see its importance, there are few more encouraging signs of our times than the changes in prison discipline which have been followed by such excellent effects. Not in one prison, or in a single State, but wherever the experiment of kindness and gentleness has been tried, the results, we believe, have served to show the impolicy as well as the barbarity of the long prevalent method of harshness and severity. In the Western Penitentiary the influence of the changes of treatment introduced, some time ago, has been highly salutary. Hope in many minds has taken the place of despondency. By the rewards of good conduct held forth and then conferred, the prisoners are taught self-respect and the value of the habit which secures such advantages. The way to moral reform in a nation to which through the week they look forward with agreeable anticipation, and backward as to a time of enjoyment. They are thus made to realize that they are still connected with the world, and that the world has an interest in them still. Many of them spend their leisure time in study, or in profitable reading, and they learn to look forward to their release from confinement as a time when they may, in some measure, redeem the errors and crimes of the past. In a word, the experiment has clearly proved what there was, indeed, no reason to doubt, that these people, however fallen, are still men.

DEVOUT Catholics say that the Pope has been greatly comforted by the revelations, or rather prophecies, of a certain nun, who died about forty years ago, leaving a number of papers to be published to the faithful, in the course of which all the important events of their respective reigns were foretold. The first of these papers has been printed in a volume printed in 1751, where Pius IX is designated as the pontiff who will "*Crucify Christ afresh*" and "*Open the Sufferings of the pontiff during a time, and of his ultimate triumph, with the restoration of all his rights and power and the full belief of the people in their limit of their final accomplishments.*

Prophetesses have played rather an important part in the history of the papacy, and PIUS IX. is not the only Pope who has been consoled by their predictions. More frequently, however, they have appeared in the character of foreshadows of evil. We have accounts of several of these prophecies in the book by JANUS, which has dealt so terrible a blow to the champions of infallibility, and which is now known to have been written by the most learned Roman Catholic historian in Germany. This book, by the way, has been placed on the Index, the only reply of which it is susceptible. Every body has heard of ST. HILDEGARD, the famous prophetess on the Rhine, who was highly honored in her day by Popes and Emperors. As early as 1170 the following predictions by her were published and created great anxiety among the adherents of the Roman Court:

"They (the Popes) sleze upon us, like ravening beasts, with their power of binding and loosing and through from the bishops of the Church, they will seek to subjugate the kingdoms of the world, but the nations will rise against them and the less rich and haughty clergy, whose property they will reduce to the right limits. The pride of the Popes will no longer observe any religion, will be brought low. Rome and its inhabitants and churches will cease to be the seat of Popes in consequence of wars, partly by the common agreement of the States."

Once In Three Years.

(From the Philadelphia Inquirer.)

Part of the business of the present session of the State Legislature will consist of proposed amendments to the Constitution. In this connection we suggest that a proposition to pass an act, to be submitted to the people, decreeing that the General Assembly should meet no oftener than once in three years. The trouble of the times is rather from too much legislation than little. Since the session of Harrisburg are now in session only about three months in each year, and yet it is known to every one that during the remaining nine months the State machine is kept almost very pleasantly and smoothly without their interference. The State can be governed in a always purer when they are not at the Capitol, and enterprise holding franchises feels a greater sense of security in Harrisburg when the Assembly is in session. Besides, the expense of the two frequent sessions would be considered. The legislature is a luxury and should not be too often indulged in.

New Things That are Old.

Is there anything new under the sun? The bicycle seems to have been known in China a good many years, and the velocipede and velocipede were probably seen even earlier in Europe. In the ancient painted glass of the church of Stoke Pogis (the churchyard of which, by the way, was the scene of Gray's famous "Elegy") may be seen a youth riding the wheeled horse amid a throng of admiring spectators. The public-spirited Romans used to ride in their marbles; and it is now suggested that the pyramids of Egypt may be built of artificial stone, made in the same way as that with the French have used on the Suez canal. It is seriously believed in this country that the pyramids is to be found anywhere in the vicinity, and this fact lends plausibility to the supposition that it is a manufactured material.

SOME interesting experiments have recently been made in the grounds attached to the school of Saint Remy, France, as to the useful qualities of the common mole. On the 23d of July a mole was placed in a piece of shrubbery, and was given wormils and grubs for food. In four months he ate 422 wirils and 99 grubs. Another mole was placed on the 7th of August in a large wooden box, and in twelve days he ate 560 grubs and 872 wormils. From time to time vegetable matter such as was believed to be his usual food was placed before him, but he never touched it except to make his bed upon it. A third, which had lost a foot in a trap, ate 150 wormils on the first day. It is now required, from these experiments, to conclude that the devastations in the soil committed by the mole are more than counterbalanced by its destruction of noxious insects.

IT is understood that Senator ROSS is making preparations to sue six or eight of the prominent papers of the country for libel, for connecting his name with corruption in the impeachment trial. The Senator has engaged some of the best counsel in the country, and will open on all of his traducers at the same time.

THE entire number of sheep in the United States is over 23,000,000. One-half of these are kept in seven States, including Michigan, in which all the important events of their respective origin occurred. Dr. Lyman Cobb has published a volume printed in 1851, where Pius IX is designated as the pontiff who will "*Crucify Christ afresh*" and "*Open the Sufferings of the pontiff during a time, and of his ultimate triumph, with the restoration of all his rights and power and the full belief of the people in their limit of their final accomplishments.*

"THEY laugh best who laugh last."—*Mackey*

Food of Occeanic Animals.

J. Gwyer Jeffreys writes in *Nature*: "The receipt of an interesting paper by Professor Dickie, entitled 'Notes on range in depth of marine Algæ,' lately published by the Botanical Society of Edinburg, induces me to call the attention of physiologists to the fact that plantlife appears to be absent in the ocean, with the exception of a comparatively narrow fringe known as the littoral and laminarian zones which skirt the coasts, and the 'Sargasso' tract in the Gulf of Mexico.

"During the recent exploration, in her Majesty's steamer Porcupine, of part of the North Atlantic, I could not detect the slightest trace of any vegetable organism at a greater depth than fifteen fathoms. Animal life abounds on all kinds and sizes, living and dead, were everywhere abundant, from the surface to the bottom, and in the cabbages we supposed that such zoophytes ate the only food of the oceanic animals. Even were there no animals, but only being zoophagous, others sarcophagous, none phytophagous. But inasmuch as all animals are said to feed on carbonic acid gas, and on their death the same gas is given out by their decomposition, whence do animals or animals get that supply of carbon which terrestrial and littoral or shallow-water animals derive, directly or indirectly, from plants? Can any class of marine animals assimilate the carbon contained in the air, as plants assimilate the carbon contained in the air?"

PITTSBURGH
COMMERCIAL.
DAILY AND WEEKLY.
1870.

As a thorough newspaper, sparing neither labor nor expense to furnish the fullest and most reliable intelligence; as the fearless, consistent, and persistent opponent of corruption in office and advocate of Honesty, Economy, Retrenchment and Reform in public affairs, as the sworn foe of "Rings" and every description of dishonest combination,—just as ready to expose their practices in the Republican as Democratic party, and even more so, because it holds that a party that will cast out offenders of this description entitles itself to the confidence of the people—as an Independent Republican journal, the champion of the rights and interests of the people,—THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL needs no new introduction to the reading public.

IT IS A PROGRESSIVE PAPER.

And keeps up in the march of improvement and the development of ideas. Thoroughly alive to everything that is valuable or interesting, it identifies itself at once and heartily with whatever seems calculated to improve mankind and elevate the standard of intelligence and morality. As a Republican journal of the strictest sect, it deals with political questions with a manly frankness, to get at the truth and place only good and capable men in office.

IT IS A PEOPLE'S PAPER.

And relies on their support and good opinion rather than the favors of political leaders. Nor has it been one of the least special reasons —more especially in denouncing legislative corruption and exposing the practices of thieves in office—that the leaders of the political classes and the feared of dishonest aspirants and defeated party tricksters. This principle it has earned in this respect it is sincerely proud; and claims no different standing in the field of journalism. In this it is willing to be estimated public property accord to it. To prove faithful to this trust, and good opinion will be its constant endeavor.

IT IS A LIVE PAPER,

And ranks with the leading journals which are thoroughly awake to the times. Something is going on. Its News Department is always fresh and full. Its editorials are written with a purpose in view. Its Market Reports and Commercial News gatherings are meant to supply the most pressing demands of the business public.

IT IS A PROSPEROUS AND GROWING PAPER,

Having from the start gone ahead, outstripping older occupants of the field of journalism; and it has attained to a prosperity and come to exert an influence never yet known in the State. That it has fairly won the rank of the first paper in Pennsylvania is the verdict of newspaper readers in general.

IT IS A PAPER OF INFLUENCE,

It being read more generally than any other Pittsburgh paper by the leading commercial and thinking classes. It is always found where the latest and fullest news is sought, and an independent paper prized,—in Banking Houses, Counting Rooms and the Family Circle, where it is welcomed as a business and intellectual necessity, and where its influence is correspondingly great.

ITS PAST COURSE IS ITS BEST RECOMMENDATION.

And it is felt that there is no necessity for indulging in any professions or making any promises. It means, while adhering to its standard principles, to improve as it has proved as it progresses, and omit nothing that will add to its strength or increase its usefulness.

THE NEXT YEAR.

THE COMMERCIAL enters on another year strong and hopeful, and it will deliberate purpose consistent with what has been said above. And it has not the least fear that the publication of all who approve of that purpose. No hesitation is felt in saying that it desires this support. Increasing its circulation as rapidly as possible, increasing the sphere of its usefulness. The season of 1870 promises to be one of rich and active life will be in session, and stirring events at both the National and State Capitals will be transpiring. The measures of the splendid administration of General Grant will soon be before Congress, and questions of the greatest interest to every reader and large class of the State Legislature will present matters of interest. Abroad, the signs are animating; and at home in the field of industry, commerce, finance, politics, education and religious questions are appearing, of the most absorbing character. It will be ignorant, and concerning which all that is essential to be known will be the aim of the COMMERCIAL to give.

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STATE NEWS.

A pet anaconda at the Lehigh University has died from the bite of a rat which was thrown to it for food.

Fifty-six barrels of whisky were sold in the city of Lancaster, by the sheriff, on General Gregory, Marshal of the Eastern District of this State, for seventy-six cents a gallon, tax included.

The new Court House, at Meadville, was dedicated on Thursday with proper ceremonies. Addresses were delivered by Judges Johnson and Vincent, H. L. Richmond, Esq., and others. There was a large attendance of people from all portions of Crawford county. In the evening a grand banquet was given at the McHenry House, which was numerously attended.

On Monday last the workmen at the Allentown Iron Works were notified that a reduction of their wages would be made on and after that day. The announcement was not received with favor by the employees, and the whole number, with very few exceptions, quit work. They demand a continuance of the old wages.

They have a prohibitory liquor law in Blairsville, passed by the Legislature two or three winters ago, and approved by a direct vote of the people. The law has been strictly enforced until recently, when several parties engaged in the hotel and saloon business concluded that they would defy it openly, and this they were indicted and tried at the December term of the Indiana County Court, the matter of course creating a great deal of excitement. All who were indicted were convicted, and fined $1,400 in the aggregate, and five of them, including one woman, were sent to jail for fifty days each.

A man named Mowry, a provision dealer in Warren, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head on Saturday night last. Financial trouble, it is supposed, was the cause of his self-destruction.

The Zahnser school house, in Lake, Mercer county, was burned Tuesday night last, December 27th. The fire was first discovered between seven and eight o'clock, and the citizens in that section express themselves confident that it was set on fire by incendiaries. This is the second school house that has been fired within the past two weeks in that county.

Three sudden deaths in Mercer county are reported within two weeks. Mr. John De France, aged between seventy and eighty, while dressing for church, on the 26th ult., fell from his chair and expired almost immediately. Mr. Reed Kennedy, residing in Otter Creek township, while returning from a visit to his son on the 31st ult., fell from his horse and died instantly. Mr. Peter Lauffer, residing in Sandy Lake township, while returning home on New Year's night, fell dead. All of these deaths are said to have been caused by apoplexy.

The Teachers' Institute of Fayette county met in the Court House, in Uniontown, during the holidays. The attendance was good, and the interest on the part of the citizens commendable. Profs. R. H. Fulton, of Pittsburgh; Higbs, of York, Miller, of Waynesburg, and Brooks, of Mercer, delivered lectures, which were highly appreciated, and Mrs. Shoemaker gave a delightful reading, for entertainment. Prof. Fulton presented very eloquent the philosophy of the present plan of education in our public schools, which owing so much now for our State.

One day last week, as some men were engaged at work on the contract, on the Mineral Point, on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, a blast exploded prematurely, killing two men instantly. During the blast a man was blown up in the air about fifty feet, and alighted sixty feet from the place where the accident occurred. The deceased were Canadians.

A meeting in the interest of the Somerset Branch Railroad will be held at the Court House in Somerset on Saturday, 22d inst.

Hammon & Powers's extensive flouring mill, at Conneautville, Clarion county, was totally destroyed by fire on the evening of the 29th ult. Loss, $15,000, upon which there is an insurance of $8,000.

The name of S. P. McClamont, Esq., of Franklin, is mentioned as among those who, as a candidate for Congress in the Twentieth District. He is well known as a thorough lawyer and a sound Democrat.

The citizens of Greenville, Mercer county, are agitating the subject of a Library Association. Fifteen shares, forty dollars each, have been subscribed, and the project looks as if it would be successful.

The Bellefonte *Watchman* says: We were horrified to learn the other day that Mr. John Orvis, an aged citizen, and a very highly respected citizen, was nearly devoured by hogs in his own barn-yard. Mr. Armagast has long been in the feeble state, and the manner in which he has been subject to fits of epilepsy, frequently falling down when alone in an entirely unconscious state. He was suddenly taken with this weakness one day last week when in his barn-yard, and in his helpless condition he was set upon by a number of hogs, which tore and mangled him horribly. Fortunately his son came to his assistance in time to save him from immediate death, but the old gentleman is now lying in a very precarious condition.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph* says: On Saturday night Mr. Hall, of Waterford, met with a fatal accident. On Monday, while his body was yet lying in the house awaiting burial, a prominent citizen of that borough called to offer his condolence and—collect a debt of sixty cents alleged to be due him. Mrs. Wilson told him that the land no money with her, but would see that the bill was paid, and the creditor departed. The circumstance got noised abroad, and some of the young men thereabouts, fearing that the man might possibly be cheated out of his dues, have started a one cent subscription and collected the amount, no one being allowed to contribute more than a penny. They intend having the account duly certified and sworn to and a receipt given for the change, which they are now prepared to do.

James M. Swank, Esq., has disposed of the Johnstwn *Tribune* to his brother, George T. Swank, a practical printer.

George Row, Esq., has sold the Indiana *Register and American* establishment to R. M. Birkman, Esq., of the Blairsville *Press*, who will consolidate the two establishments, and publish a paper with a new name at Indiana.

HARRISBURG.

Treasuryship Contest Ended

Gen. W. W. Irwin Elected.

The Vote---Irwin, 70; Mackey, 61.

The Democrats Unite With Fifteen Republicans.

Exciting Scenes in Joint Convention.

Total Rout of the Treasury Ring.

A MAJORITY OF ASSEMBLYMEN RISE ABOVE PARTY.

Opinions of Politicians and the People on the Result.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 6, 1870.

ADJOURNMENT—THE COMMITTEES.

The House adjourned to-day until next week in order to afford the Speaker an opportunity to make up the committees. The selections of Speaker Strang will affork a reasonable idea of the basis upon which he desires legislation conducted. The committees control legislation, and however earnest a majority of the House may be on the subject of retrenchment and reform, should the committees be cast in an opposite interest, their efforts will be thwarted. If Mr. Strang makes good the glowing professions of his inaugural address, in constituting committees, the demand of the people for a new policy at the State capitol will be faithfully reflected. The hotel gossip is that the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ways and Means lies between ex-Speaker Davis, of Philadelphia, and James H. Webb, of Bradford county, who announced himself as a candidate for Speaker last fall, but subsequently withdrew in favor of Mr. Strang. H. C. Johnson, of Crawford, is also named for the position. The reputation of "Sid" Davis as being foremost in advocating and voting for all manner of loose appropriations is well known. Mr. Webb, I am happy to say, has a better name as a legislator, and would probably guard the interests of the treasury with fidelity. He has been a member of the House for three years, and is a man of practical ideas and solid information, with a high reputation for integrity. He was not nominated by the party in his district last fall at the first caucus held, but the gentleman put in nomination to succeed him having been killed by a railroad accident, Mr. Webb was taken up, and returned to his old seat in the House.

The desire of the members that there should be a new leaf turned over in legislation, and all jobbery abolished, is strikingly manifest on every hand. The sweep of the November verdict is almost unanimous. Out of the one hundred members of the last House, but thirty-two were re-elected, twenty-one Republicans and eleven Democrats. Philadelphia re-elected six Republicans, and the delegation from that city is speckled and spotted in a delightful manner, although there are some who insist that it has a Democratic complexion and single aim in view, without regard to politics or term of service. What that is the appropriation bills will probably disclose. The old Democratic ring which ruled the city of Philadelphia—were generally elected on a retrenchment platform, and it is clear the advocates of this policy are now at the outset of the session, in a decided working majority, but the trials and temptations incidental to their position are yet before them. Old residents, and men experienced in legislation, will look with a close eye of economy in the distribution of the appropriations for this session, but the principle is lost sight of when its application is attempted. This is possibly correct, as a rule, but I take it the back-bones of men who come to bow with professions of retrenchment and reform, are exceptionally stiff, and they will not be seduced from their position by cajolery or intimidated by threats.

One thing is known and is a matter of fact that had not Mr. Speaker Strang given the most satisfactory assurances on the subject of retrenchment, he could not have been elected. He had been backed by the caucus nominations instead of one. A number of Western members, including some from Allegheny county, were dissatisfied at the snap judgment taken by the preliminary caucus, and were ready to bolt, but Strang has since proved a leader and a little energetic work, to have withheld enough votes from Mr. Strang to have compelled his withdrawal. But the idea was circulated extensively that he would take the most advanced ground in financial matters, and the natural desire of the new members for harmony in the party, led them to acquiesce in his election as Speaker. But it should be understood that he was elected on these pledges and not on his past record.

THE SENATE COMMITTEES.

The most important change made in the Senate has been in the appointment of Shunk to its influence during the session, was the substitution of Mr. Billingfelt, of Lancaster county, as Chairman of the Committee on Finance, in place of George Connell, of Philadelphia. Mr. Connell is a representative of the honesty and integrity of the people, and will use his position to crush out all legislative rings and stop corrupt or needless appropriations of public money. He is of genuine old Pennsylvania German stock, and is noted for his peculiar to the class; talks plain common sense, with great force, and is not afraid to differ with his party when he is confident of the strength of his own position. Senator Connell's ability is known and admitted, and in fact, but his record is bad on most questions connected with the disbursement of the public money. He has been at the head of the Finance Committee of the Senate for eleven years, and his deposition shows that Speaker Stinson has views of his own as to honest legislation, and is determined, so far as in him lies the power, to give them practical effect. The removal of Shunk has created a good deal of feeling at the Capitol. His ability is unquestioned, but it has been too rarely exercised in behalf of reformatory legislation.

The following is a list of the Standing Committees of the Senate:

Federal Relations—Messrs. Lowry, Graham, Connell, Turner and Duncan.

Finance—Messrs. Billingfelt, White, Brooke, Warfield, Lamberton and McIntire.

Judiciary General—Messrs. White, Olmsted, Howard, Wallace and Davis.

Judiciary Local—Messrs. Osterhout, Mumma, Heasley, McIntire and Furman.

Corporations—Messrs. Wall, Nagle and Linderman.

Estates and Escheats—Messrs. Olmsted, Allen, Rutan, Davis and Bockalew.

Pensions and Gratuities—Messrs. Kerr, Watt, Warfield, Turner and Duncan.

Corporations—Messrs. Graham, Heasley, Osterhout, Beck and Miller.

Inland Navigation—Messrs. Howard, Kerr, Robeson, Linderman and Brodhead.

Roads and Bridges—Messrs. Howard, Randall and Bockalew.

Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures—Messrs. Rutan, Mumma, Allen and Duncan.

Military Affairs—Messrs. White, Robison, Warfield, Irwin and Bockalew.

Roads and Bridges—Messrs. Robison, Osterhout, Mumma, Beck and Turner.

Public Buildings—Messrs. Watt, Billingfelt, Brown and Bockalew.

Vice and Immorality—Messrs. Kerr, Rutan, Graham, Linderman and Brodhead.

Private Claims and Damages—Messrs. Howard, Warfel, White, Duncan and Bockalew.

Mines and Mining—Messrs. Heasley, Graham, Robeson, Nagle and Turner.

Accounts, Public Expenditures and County Seats—Messrs. Lowry, Kerr, Allen, Beck and Furman.

Militia—Messrs. Allen, Meeding, Olmsted, Connell

dorsing Hon. Simon Cameron's course on the Cuba question in Congress.

Increase of Governor's Salary.

The bill increasing the Governor's salary to eight thousand dollars, was reduced by the committee to seven thousand, and passed finally.

Metropolitan Police Bill.

Mr. Connell introduced a metropolitan police bill for Philadelphia.

Another Oil Pipe Company.

Mr. Kerr—Incorporating the Bear Creek Oil and Pipe Company, from any point in Butler or Armstrong to any point on the Allegheny river or Allegheny Valley Railroad in Armstrong or Clarion.

Mr. Graham's supplement for the Allegheny Prison passed finally.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Resolutions.

Mr. Adaire—Authorizing four additional page boys. Postponed.

Mr. McJunkin—Appointing Rev. Mr. Haldeman as Chaplain. Postponed on motion of Mr. Davis, who alleged there were two clergymen, a Democrat and a Republican, members of the House, who would pray for nothing.

Other movements for additional subordinate officers were defeated.

Record of Proceedings.

Mr. Niles called up his resolution for a committee on publication of the proceedings daily, with power to contract with the lowest bidder, subject to approval of the Legislature.

Mr. Vankirk offered an amendment, providing that the committee may report any other plan preferable to a daily, with probable cost. Adopted, and resolution as amended passed.

Bergner's Contract Ended.

After discussion, the resolution rescinding all obligation to George Bergner on his contract was passed.

Election of State Treasurer.

The joint Treasurer Convention met at 12 o'clock. The following is an analysis of the first ballot: All the Democrats, 53 in number, voted for Daniel O. Barr, the regular Democratic nominee; Senator Lowry for Bishop Simpson, Senator Warfel for Amos L. Henderson; Representatives Bowman, Buffington, Craig, Godshalk, Herr, Leslie, McCracken, McCreary, Reinehl, Wheeler and Wiley for Irwin, and Coray for L. D. Shoemaker, Senators Kerr and Billingfelt not voting—all these Republicans. All the rest voted for Mackey. Recapitulation: Mackey, 62; Irwin, 11; Barr, 55; Simpson, 1; Henderson, 1; Shoemaker, 1.

Second Ballot—All the Democrats but Brobst and Beates voted for Barr; Senators Lowry, of Erie, and Kerr, of Butler, and Representatives Bowman, of Erie, Buffington, of Washington; Craig, of Lawrence; Godshalk, of Lancaster; Kerr, of Lancaster; Leslie, of Butler; McCracken, of Lawrence; McCreary, of Erie; Reinehl, of Lancaster; Wheeler, of Meeker, and Wiley, of Lancaster, all Republicans, voted for Irwin; Senator Billingfelt, of Lancaster, not voting; Coray, Republican, of Luzerne, voted for Shoemaker. Republicans and Beates, Democrats, asked to change from Barr to Irwin, but were refused. Recapitulation; Irwin, 66; Mackey, 63; Shoemaker, 1; Barr, 2.

The Mackey men then moved an adjournment. Lost—yeas, 56; nays, 76.

Third Ballot—(Billingfelt and Warfel, of Lancaster, not voting)—All who voted for Irwin on second ballot voted same way; Beates, of Democrats, changed to Irwin, and at the close Ames and Coray, Republicans, changed their votes the first from Mackey and the latter from Shoemaker to Irwin, amid applause. Recapitulation—Irwin, 70; Mackey, 61.

Remarks of Senator Lowry on the Scull-Findlay Contest.

During the discussion of the Scull-Findlay case in the Senate on Tuesday, Hon. M. B. Lowry, of Erie, said:

Mr. Speaker: When this question was before the Senate on a previous occasion, I expressed myself very decidedly of the opinion that we could not go back of the returns. I have become one of the judges in this whole contest; one is regularly signed by the return judges—by three of them. This one return, we affirm, came to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth in due form, and has also found its way here, not in the form of law—signed by only one return judge, named William C. Hicks, purporting to be from Somerset county, and sent by mail and to be addressed to the Senate. I hold, sir, that that paper is good for nothing to us—not good for the paper upon which it is written, and unlawful Return Judges have returns signed by all the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and it is true, in his report says that one of them was not a legally affirmed Judge. I care nothing about that, sir; that is not the true question. Suppose a judgment in Court was given under the hand and seal of the Court, and one of them would go in rebellion and certify that his colleagues were wrong, which judgment would be received in court? Would such conduct be compellant and which would have to contend? Mr. Speaker, this is what the Republican party has to do. It is shameful to the Republican party that it is here; two or three weeks ago it was not contemplated that it should be here. In this hour of distress, what great wrong was about to be inflicted upon the Republican party that the Senate should canvass over a transaction of this kind? If a dozen jurors at a county court house should caution a verdict that they were to render they would be very apt to be indicted and punished as conspirators to conspire to do an injustice. I repeat, sir, that the most shameful history in the record of the Republican party in Pennsylvania is to be found in the fact that you canvassed to give a man a vote against a majority of the people, against the returns Judges and in violation of the act of Assembly, by which says that a contest shall be thrown upon the returns here made. And, sir, I was about inquiring what this great majority of the Republican party require that all former precedents should be disregarded, and that we should do this great wrong. I had supposed the Republican party was powerful in numbers and intelligence, but powerful also in its integrity of purpose, and that it would seek no such retreat. Gentlemen, Suddenly, as it it were by magic, all over the State it has been alleged that "an old paralyzed man." I think were the words. It was about to foresake the Republican party and go over to the Democratic party, and therefore, this wrong was to be inflicted. Suppose, sir, I were to get up and carry my chair over (if I were able to use the arm) to the Senate, and should tell the gentlemen upon this side of the house that I thought it right to do so, and them forever, is that any excuse for giving a man a seat when he is not entitled to it? Why insist that this great wrong be done? Justice should be done contrary to all precedent. Not one of the men who voted for Mr. Niles knew about my going to join the Democratic party they believe it. Let any man in this Senate go to the grave of John Brown of Ossawatomie and whisper to him and say: "Lowry is going over to the Democratic party," and he will tell you: "It is false as h—ll," [Laughter.] Go if you please to Illinois, and whisper it in the ear of Abraham Lincoln and his cabinet, and they will mild words: "There is some mistake in this matter." Go if you please to the grave of Thaddeus Stevens and whisper it in his ear, and he will rave against the Democratic party except when I believed I was justified by the strict justice of the case, and I will tell you, sir, the country knows it, that I have been years in advance of any Senator upon this floor upon these questions, and I will not submit for you to call in question my Republicanism. And, Mr. Speaker, I have not failed to read me out of the Republican party for my vote last winter upon a bill from Philadelphia, taking from the people the power to appoint their own officers; when I voted against you, and defeated the passage of the bill. I saved the State from ruin last fall.

All the Republican party wants is honesty and fair play, and a fair registry law, and it has got it. There is nothing that the people of Pennsylvania and the people of the United States are as sensitive over as they are over the question of the purity of the ballot box it should be. The Democratic party practiced all kind of villainy, and the people stood it as long as they went to tampering with the ballot box and denying the right of men properly elected to take their seats. Then, sir, and then only, God stirred up wrath within the hearts of the people, and the Democracy was smitten down, and will be forever smitten down when they endeavor to prevent an honest and fair expression of the will of the people. The Republican party cannot attempt it and their power will turn to ashes in their hands, and it will come back upon them like Samson's locks upon the Philistines. Mr. Speaker, when I took this seat here that this precedent, this outrage and this majority of the Return Judges and against the Commissioners, against the laws of the country and against the practices of Europe and the United States would be inflicted here. [Mr. Lowry here read the opinion of ex-Attorney General Brewster, of Philadelphia, which stated that Mr. Finday was entitled to the seat.]

That is the law of this country. Let the majority decide here as they may, the judgment of this country will be with them. The Senate cannot prevent the execution of the law. It will not do for Republicans to tear down and trample under foot the law, and give the enemy the victory. I, sir, say that I will leave their side of the house and join a party whose only principle is honesty and that hates the negro, that is all the capital stock they have got. [Laughter.] do you think I am going over? That won't do, gentlemen: that kind of fear I will forever quiet in your bosoms. I have been with you the Republican party while I am on earth, but I am going to denounce as unfaithful any Republican that dare trample upon the rights of a man out on account of his politics. This country will tumble to ruin many time but they will permit no party to do this. If Mr. Findlay is entitled to his seat by a majority of the certificates of the return judge, let him come in and take it, and if Mr. Scull draws his commission and has the best of contests, and shows his case to be a good one, no gentleman will be more ready to give him the seat than myself.

CUBA.

Proclamation from Captain General Dodas—"Everything Lovely" with the Spaniards—Arrival of Gunboats—Effects of the Bogus Junta Proclamation.

HAVANA, January 6.—One of the gunboats from New York via Charleston arrived here last night.

Captain General De Rodas has issued a proclamation generally complimentary to the behavior of citizens and the army. He says the sickly season has passed without diminishing the strength of the army. The insurgents took the offensive twice and were twice repulsed. The insurgents in the west are confined to the mountains. The troops at present here were sufficient to subdue the insurgents, and the reason that so many were coming from Spain was that their Spanish countrymen desire to spare the sacrifices of Spaniards in Cuba. He says the Cubans are not insurgents in war only, but in insendiarism. The civil tribunals were going on with activities as usual, while owing to the surrenders in the Cinco Villa district, the troops remain without work.

The proclamation of the Cuban Junta recently printed here, is more generally considered as a hoax. It is the document which was invented by the New York *Cronista* or Havana *Voz de Cuba*. There, however, are persons who are regularly imposed upon by articles in the *Voz de Cuba*, who believe the proclamation genuine. No one doubts the truth of the document has yet been received from America. In the meantime it has been telegraphed to various points in the interior, where it has unquestionably exerted a powerful influence.

Fifteen more of the Spanish gunboats arrived from New York to-day, accompanied by the war steamer Pizarro.

The municipality of Maianzas has imposed an export duty as follows: Sugar 1½ per box, and $3 66 per hhd; on molasses 25c for Matanzas, and 50c for other ports.

The *Voz de Cuba* to-day published a telegram from New York, stating that the Cuban Junta has resolved to hire assassins to assassinate the Spanish Minister, Spanish Consul, and editor of the *Cronista*.

The capture of Port au Prince by the Haytien insurgents is fully confirmed. The crew of the English war steamer *Defence* aided in extinguishing the conflagration. The wherecastels and fate of Salnave are unknown.

WASHINGTON, January 9.—The following dispatch was yesterday received in Washington, direct from Havana. The *Gazette*, the official organ of the Government, publishes on the fifth instant an important proclamation of the Captain General, intended to define the present situation of the island. The Captain-General congratulates the country upon its general prosperity. New troops and uniforms, although not needed, have come from Spain to fulfill its promises to suppress the insurrection. Instructions towards Cuba, and proclaim the island of Cuba will be treated as pirates. He then refers to the threats of homicide and incendiarism made by certain banks of port, against which precautions are now being taken to garrisoning plantations with troops and civil guards, to save them from destruction. Men-of-war have also been sent from Spain to Cuba, with the intent to employ along her coasts, and to prevent the landing on the Island of filibustering expeditions coming from outside. The Captain General says that there was never before on the Island such a state of affairs as could be considered a state of war, but now peace had been so fully re-established, that there is no place in the island where the administration of public affairs or the action of the civil courts is not fully guaranteed.

HAVANA, January 8.—The *Prensa* announces the killing of thirty unarmed men in the vicinity of Mazella a few days since by the insurgents.

HAVANA, January 9.—The Spanish frigate Gerona will soon sail for Venezuela, for the purpose of watching the Cuban junta there. The Lilio was formerly the R. R. Cuyler, and was sold by citizens of the United States to the Colombian Government. The Governors of Cuba she has been sold to the Cuban insurgents. The Gerona sails hence to be sold as per Spanish interests generally in that quarter.

The *Voz de Cuba* publishes an article on the Spanish Dictionarship, in which the writer says that the elevation of Marshal Serrano to the position of Dictator is unnecessary and untimely.

WASHINGTON.

Postal Matters—Gen. Terry to Punish Perjured Rebels—The Next Apportionment.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 12, 1870.

Postal Matters.

The Postmasters of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Indianapolis, and two or three of the special mail agents are to be here to consult with Mr. Creswell and his assistants on the working of certain features of the postal system. They want to make the free delivery system more efficient than it now is, and to extend it to some of the smaller cities. The registry system does not work quite to Mr. Creswell's satisfaction, and some changes in the regulations governing it will probably be made. The rule on small money orders are thought to be high, and to-day's deliberations will, it is believed, be followed by a reduction in this direction. The subject of collecting newspaper postage was also discussed.

Georgia Legislators Commit Perjury.

Gen. Terry, commanding in Georgia, telegraphed here this morning, saying that several members of the Legislature had taken the test oath, and he had reason to believe they had committed perjury in so doing. He wants to know what he shall do in the premises. Gen. Sherman, after consultation with the President and the Secretary of War, answered that in flagrant cases where there was no doubt that persons had aided the rebellion, he should deal with them vigorously in his own discretion. General Terry is not a man of half way measures, and under this discretionary order will be likely to punish some of the ex-rebels of his State that they cannot safely violate the letter and spirit of the reconstruction laws.

The Next Congressional Apportionment.

Congressman Judd has the floor in the House as soons as the Virginia bill is finished, and will speak on the bill, of which he is the author, for arranging the apportionment under the next census, so as to give the West its proper number of representatives in the next Congress. He had the floor to-day, but gave way for the Virginia discussion.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Prince Bonaparte Murders M. Victor Noir.

PARIS, January 10, Evening.—This afternoon M. Fouvielle and Victor Noir, of the editorial staff of *La Marseillaise*, Rochefort's journal, proceeded to the residence of Prince Pierre Bonaparte, as seconds in a contemplated duel between the Prince and Pascinal Grousset, also editor of that journal. They had an interview with the Prince, during which an altercation took place. The Prince became enraged, and seizing a revolver fired twice at his two visitors. At this Victor Noir, falling effect in the body of Victor Noir, killing him instantly. The tragedy causes great agitation in the city. The Prince has delivered himself to the authorities.

PARIS, January 11.—The city is greatly excited over a tragedy which occurred yesterday afternoon. Prince Bonaparte's version of the affair is furnished to the journals to-day by M. Ulbach, his friend, and is substantially as follows:

Be it enacted, &c.,—That the State of Virginia is entitled to one Representative in the Congress under the Constitution ratified on the 6th day of July, 1868, upon the following amendment:

Provided, That no person shall hold any office, civil or military, in said State, who shall not first have taken and subscribed the oath of July 2, 1862, and filed a copy of the same as required by said act, and the Constitution of said State shall never be amended or changed so as to deprive any citizen or classes of citizens of the United States of the right to vote or hold office in the state who are entitled to vote or hold office under the Constitution and laws of said State, which shall be designated by number, date and amount, shall cease to bear interest from and after the 4th day of July next, and that the certificates so designated shall no longer be available as any portion of the lawful money reserve in any national banking association, after such notice no interest shall be paid on such certificates, and that shall not be counted as a part of the basis of any banking association.

SEC. 2. That upon the deposit of any United States bonds bearing interest payable in gold with the Treasurer of the United States, as provided in section 1 of the 19th and 20th sections of the national currency act, it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury to issue to the association making the same circulating notes of different denominations, in form as may if necessary, in order to procure the presentation of such temporary bonds for exchange, and likewise to give notice to holders thereof by publication or otherwise that after a day to be designated by the Secretary, which shall be designated by number, date and amount, shall cease to bear interest from and after the day so designated, and that the certificates so designated shall no longer be available as any portion of the lawful money reserve in any national banking association, after such notice no interest shall be paid on such certificates, and that shall not be counted as a part of the basis of any banking association.

SEC. 3. That upon the deposit of any United States bonds bearing interest payable in gold with the Treasurer of the United States, as provided in the 19th and 20th sections of the national currency act, it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury to issue to the association making the same circulating notes of different denominations, in form as may if necessary, in order to procure the presentation of such temporary bonds for exchange, and likewise to give notice to holders thereof by publication or otherwise that after a day to be designated by the Secretary, which shall be designated by number, date and amount, shall cease to bear interest from and after the day so designated, and that the certificates so designated shall no longer be available as any portion of the lawful money reserve in any national banking association, after such notice no interest shall be paid on such certificates, and that shall not be counted as a part of the basis of any banking association.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized, in the construction of a railroad from the western boundary of Minnesota to Puget Sound, to issue to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, a corporation of British Columbia.

The Virginia bill was then taken up and consideration of the amendment offered by Mr. DRAKE, to prevent the rescinding of the ordinance of the Legislature of Virginia was resumed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. WOOD presented the joint resolution of the New York Legislature, withdrawing its assent heretofore given to the ratification of the fifteenth amendment. Tabled.

Mr. WOODWARD made a personal explanation on the subject of the colloquy which took place between himself and Mr. BUTLER, in relation to the speakership of Allegheny county. Pa.

Mr. WILKINSON, of Minnesota, introduced a bill granting lands to the State of Minnesota for a railroad to the Winnepeg boundary of the British possessions. Referred.

Mr. GARFIELD introduced a bill to amend the act for the creation of a bureau of freedmen, refugees, and to abolish the Bureau of refugees, freedmen and abandoned lands. Referred.

Mr. COLGER offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the practicability of removing the sand bar and other obstructions across the mouth of Saginaw river in St. Clair, Michigan. Adopted.

Mr. UPSON offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to take into consideration the necessity of providing additional buildings, if necessary, for the use of the custom house, United States Courts and internal revenue offices.

Mr. KELLEY introduced a bill to repeal the act of June 17, 1862, defining additional causes of challenge, and prescribing an additional oath to grand and petit jurors in United States Courts. Referred.

The discussion of the Virginia bill on the Drake amendment consumed the morning hour.

Mr. JUDD proposed to call up the bill relative to the apportionment for representatives, but as Mr. FARNSWORTH desired to get the Virginia bill out of the way, he yielded, giving notice that he would call it up at the earliest opportunity.

Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 12, 1870.

SENATE.

Mr. CONKLING presented the resolutions of the Legislature of New York, withdrawing the assent of that body to the fifteenth amendment. Tabled.

Mr. SUMNER gave notice of a bill to authorize the refunding and consolidation of the national debt, to extend banking facilities, and to establish a specie payment.

Mr. HOWE introduced a bill more effectually to preserve the neutral relations of the United States.

The bill relative to Hot Springs reservation in Arkansas was taken up and passed.

A joint resolution to extend the limits of the port of entry of New Orleans was passed.

A bill to exempt canned and preserved fish from internal taxation.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported as a substitute for all propositions relating to the national currency the following bill: A bill to provide a national currency secured by pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof, approved June 4, 1864, and the amendments thereto, be and the same is hereby declared to be a part of the act

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1870.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

WITHIN the last two weeks the circulation of the DAILY COMMERCIAL has increased nearly ONE THOUSAND, and the accessions to the circulation of the weekly edition during the same time have been correspondingly greater. Nothing need be added to give the statement force as illustrating public sentiment touching our course in regard to questions of special interest relating to affairs at Harrisburg, and Rings in general. We have other and equally conclusive proof of how thoroughly our independent course is approved by an intelligent public. The only way a journal can deserve success is by being fearless and honest, especially when fearlessness and honesty are sure to draw down upon it the hate and persecution of evil doers. Assailed as the honor and welfare of the State are by the corruptionists, we have determined to wage ceaseless warfare until public opinion shall put them down. Results thus far, whether as to ourselves or the public which has so deep an interest in the issue, have been abundantly satisfactory.

NEW CHAPTER IN THE QUAY-COMMERCIAL LIBEL CASE.

On the 10th day of December last past, the Editor and Publisher of the COMMERCIAL were arrested for libel on the information of Mr. M. S. QUAY, made before Alderman NEEPER, who has his office in Diamond alley. On the first day of the hearing, the 16th, Mr. QUAY failed to come to time as prosecuting witness. An adjournment till the day following was had, when Mr. QUAY took the stand. How he immortalized himself in the character of The Dumb Witness, on that and two succeeding days, the public cannot have forgotten. Two expert lawyers ably assisted in the performance. It was, perhaps, the most extraordinary one on the part of a prosecuting witness professing a desire to have the whole truth told, that was ever witnessed. Notwithstanding their truth-telling professions, it taxed their united powers, besides the sustaining and overruling assistance of the Alderman, to prevent the truth coming out. Considering the push-to-the-wall boasts and threats by the prosecution at the outset, their attitude from the first half hour of Mr. QUAY's career in the witness line to the close of the performance, was extremely funny. A more perfect instance of gentlemen commencing a prosecution and placing themselves on trial, was probably never heard of. The hearing concluded by the Alderman promptly holding the defendants for trial, "at the present term" of the Court, the Grand Jury being in session, and requiring bail in the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars. We were given to understand that no delay would be tolerated, that the Grand Jury would be asked to consider the case specially, and that the case would be tried at the earliest day possible—a view of the matter which accorded with our wishes perfectly. We were held to bail on the 21st of December, and for the greater part of the two weeks which followed, the Grand Jury were in session considering bills. On Wednesday, having concluded the business before them, they adjourned,—but to our surprise, neither Mr. QUAY nor the QUAY-COMMERCIAL case had been before them. On making inquiry at the office of Alderman NEEPER, we were still further surprised on being assured by him, that, acting under the direction of Messrs. MARSHALL and SWARTZWELDER, he had made no return of the information, but withheld it. He could give no other reason for not performing his duty, except that the counsel for the other side had so directed him, which he considered authority sufficient, and was not afraid of the consequences.

We must say that the directions of Mr. QUAY's counsel to the Alderman, and that officer's obedient course, in withholding the information, whereby a speedy trial was prevented, were entirely consistent with their course on the preliminary hearing. But how will these things appear to the public? Are they consistent with the professed desire of Mr. QUAY to have the truth developed, or of his counsel for a speedy trial? But one inference can be drawn from the facts as we have related them. That inference the public will inevitably draw. We desire to have the truth brought out, and to this end we have looked for a speedy trial. If the prosecution want time to enable witnesses to get from one State to the next, we can anticipate their tactics. If they are afraid to face the truth—if the case has presented aspects they dreamed not of, whereby they themselves are virtually placed on trial—their course can readily be understood. The public, we apprehend, will experience little difficulty in coming to a satisfactory conclusion on the subject.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

No one, we suppose, can read Governor GRARY's long message without receiving a profound impression of the magnitude of the interests which are committed to the charge of the administrators of this State of Pennsylvania. And the impression will, it seems, be equally distinct of the intelligence and honesty of purpose of the author of the document. In its ample and luminous statements of pertinent facts, in its direct enunciation of policy, and in its fearless denunciation of abuses, the people will recognize the continued action of those qualities which have so often pointed him out as the leader whom they needed, and which especially they had in view in making him their Governor.

In the beginning of his message the Governor indicates two principles which, if regarded, will do much towards delivering the Nation of the State from some of its greatest evils. These principles are the avoidance of legislation for personal and special interests and the clear and constant recognition of the magnitude of the interests of the Commonwealth. Strictly speaking these two notions go together. A large and comprehensive appreheension of the great interests of the State will cause the legislators to discover the impoliey of most of the personal and special acts which individuals and sections are so eager sometimes to effect. And nothing but the adoption of such enlarged views with sufficient integrity to secure fidelity to them can arrest the degradation of the legislative character among us. Few are ignorant that "this personal and special legislation" has, in the past, been the cause of the foulest corruptions and corruption which have almost sunk membership at Harrisburg below the ambition of honorable men. The hints of the Governor in regard to economy in the management of the finances of the State and the retrenchment of all unnecessary expenditures, are certain to be carefully heeded during the coming session. Action upon these hints, as also upon the advice to utilize the Treasury surplus, will afford our representatives an opportunity, which they dare hardly neglect, of, in some measure, redeeming the past.

Recommendations of great importance are embraced in the reference of the message to the subject of appropriations from the treasury for pensions, insane asylums, state lunatic hospital, and benevolent purposes. Surely nothing can be more reasonable than that the administrators of such funds should render a strict and detailed account of the manner in which they have been disbursed. Facts have amply shown that care to prevent negligence, if not peculation, is quite as necessary in the supervision of charitable moneys as of any other. Indeed from certain developments in the past, one might suppose that the management of such funds exposes the agent to peculiar temptation and calls for special safeguards.

The statement of the message concerning the public schools of the State is very satisfactory. It suggests one topic which we trust will be the subject of legislative inquiry and action. We learn that while more than eight hundred thousand children attend these schools, and eighty-five thousand are educated in private institutions, about seventy-five thousand children do not go to any school, but are permitted to grow up in ignorance. Our people may not yet be ready to favor a law which shall compel parents to send their children to school, but in view of the crime and expense certain to be entailed upon the State by the ignorance of so many of its people, the time would seem to have come when something ought to be done to remedy a condition of things so unsatisfactory.

Perhaps among the many topics of the message few are more worthy of the attention of the legislature and the people than the reference to the subject of life assurance. That the people are widely interested in this subject is evident from the fact that besides the local and State companies, thirty-seven life assurance companies having their center outside, do business in Pennsylvania, paying each a license of five hundred dollars. The Governor calls attention to the importance of establishing in the State an insurance department similar to those existing in other States. Experience in other countries, particularly in England, proves that without government supervision, there can be no adequate provision against fraud, mismanagement and lamentable distress in connection with the business referred to; while in some other States in this country, the excellent effects of Government inspection have been made very manifest. Some action in accordance with the suggestions of the message seems to be demanded. By it the people will be protected against fraudulent companies, the business of insurance will be carried on more in the interest of citizens of the State and of the revenue, while foreign companies will be deprived of their present extraordinary advantages.

MARCH OF PUBLIC OPINION.

A more complete triumph of public opinion than was achieved in the organization and immediate subsequent action of the Legislature, has never been witnessed in our State. In the first place, we find Mr. STRANG, conceding the errors of the past, acknowledging the people as "our masters," and pronouncing for a frank acceptance of the popular will, expressed in favor of Economy, Retrenchment and Reform, as the only guide of himself and fellow legislators. Of course, without this concession, and pledges of the most unqualified and satisfactory description, the House would have been organized with another man for Speaker, notwithstanding Mr. STRANG's superior fitness in point of experience and ability. The friends of reform were supreme in their power over the question, and accepted these pledges from a convert to the cause of reform and an obedient servant to that sentiment which is supreme throughout the State, which had brought down the most stubborn opponents, and against which no man dare raise his voice or shape his action. In the election of Speaker STINSON, of the Senate, public opinion in favor of reform gained another victory, that gentleman being an ardent supporter of reform in legislation and an honest and economical administration of public affairs.

Among the members of the two branches of the Legislature the sentiment in favor of reform is overwhelming. The first proof of this is the action of the Senate cutting up, root and branch, the *Record* job. This stroke, if it is followed up by the House, as we believe it will be, with the proper reduction of the number of pasters and folders, will save the State not much less than one hundred thousand dollars. This is one of the reforms which the COMMERCIAL has persistently advocated; and the extent to which public sentiment has been awakened to its importance is especially gratifying—a feeling that is heightened by the notable instances of former defenders of the job becoming its most ardent opponents.

But perhaps the most important manifestation of the growth of public opinion is found in that portion of Governor GRARY's message on the corruption attending the election of State Treasurer, the misuse of the public funds, the importance of prompt action by the Legislature to check and punish this profligacy, and the unmistakable readiness on the part of the Legislature to indorse the Governor's testimony and adopt his suggestions. It has been a favorite argument with organs of the Rings and corruptionists generally, while not daring to deny the charge of corruption, to call on us for specifications. They will please now to make their demand on Governor GRARY. No doubt he will be abundantly able to support his broad charges of profligacy and downright corruption with specifications sufficiently explicit to satisfy the most exacting. If any one before doubted the truth of the charges of corruption in connection with the Treasuryship and the unexpended balance, which we have so many times made, the testimony of the Governor, and the readiness of the Legislature to act concerning them, will greatly tend to remove such doubts. In this respect we feel that we have achieved a great triumph for ourselves, and brought about a revolution which cannot fail of results most valuable to the State.

The Legislature unmistakably means to reform the Treasury system, fix the salary of the Treasurer at a suitable sum, remove the unexpended balance from his control, and tear up by the roots the profligate system to which Governor GRARY has called attention. With this done—as we believe it will be done—it matters little who is Treasurer, if he be reputable and qualified. Hence the election of Mr. MACKEY is at most a barren triumph. We might refer to the fact, as demonstrating the force of public opinion, that even the CAMERONS, and the Rings in general, have been compelled to profess a desire for reform. But we need refer only to the honest manifestations of the growth of popular sentiment. On all hands has public opinion compelled deference; and all that the friends of reform have to do is to relax not their efforts to achieve everything for which they have ever contended.

THE BARBARISM OF RINGS.

In the most civilized countries manifest relics of barbarism are often found, presenting the most glaring contrast with their surroundings. Indeed some of these deformities seem to be the inevitable offshoots of civilization itself. This is so often and so manifestly the case that eminent men have held that retrogression, not progression, is the law of humanity, and that the reminiscences of a golden age found among all nations, even the most barbarous, are merely dim traditions of the civilized state from which they have fallen. Whether these general views be true or not, one thing is certain, that in the midst of the oldest, and in some respects, the most perfect civilization, there is a constant tendency toward barbarism. The reason of this fact is obvious. Society is constituted upon a surrender of natural rights. The individual gives up certain privileges and immunities that still greater advantages of a social kind may accrue to himself and others from union. Hence the great peculiarity of a civilized community is the ascendancy of the many over the single person. Hence the importance of public spirit, as the very life of society, and hence the honors and emoluments which an enlightened people delight to shower upon their benefactors. Such honors are the condemnation of egoism and the recognition of unselfishness. And though in those thus honored there may be much selfishness after all, it is likely to be a lofty and far-seeing selfishness which, while it "noble ends by noble means obtains," also obtains gratifications of a refined character.

But against this sacrifice of the individual to the society there is an incessant struggle in base minds. And as minds of this stamp are numerous in every community, the aggregate tendency is a social desire for license, impiety and relapse into barbarism is always very strong. These selfish energies are kept in abeyance and under some control, only by the antagonistic forces of society. Penal laws, with magistrates to execute them, and the collective public opinion of the time, with its preachers and teachers, are the chief restraining agencies of this kind. But the insufficiency of this agency for its purpose is often made strikingly apparent. They answer very well in ordinary commonplace times. But when revolutions or great popular agitations, and commotions have produced widespread excitement and stimulated the natural movement in the direction of social disruption, the coercing forces above described in the inefficiency of their operation may remind us of Mrs. PARTINGTON's vigorous labors with her broom against the Atlantic. As the old physicians used to say that every disease is taken according to the peculiar constitution of the patient, so this anti-social malady rages according to the character and condition of each people. A revolution in Italy covers the mountains with banditti. In the United States, among a mercantile and perhaps a money-loving people, a great national convulsion calls forth troops, multitudes of scoundrels no whit more moral or less deadly enemies of society than their Italian confreres. The only difference between them is the difference of their weapons. Their object is the same and their principles are identical:

> The good old rule, the simple plan,
> That they should take who have the power,
> And they should keep who can.

Both alike seek to live off the public, and to get what does not belong to them. But our Ringmen are more dangerous to society than their Italian brethren. Though the latter form a *banda*, that is, a gang or ring, they do not get their name from that circumstance. The word Banditto means a person proclaimed or denounced as an outlaw. Italy is an old country. Ringman does not yet mean one thus proclaimed among us; at present it means merely one who ought to be so denounced. The word will take on that notion in due time.

That these Ringmen are more dangerous to society than armed banditti would be, is an indubitable truth. The mere amount of plunder they secure for themselves at the expense of the public, is an important consideration in its place, but it is a trifle in comparison with other evils which directly or indirectly flow from such combinations. They immediately and injuriously interfere with and disturb the operation of those principles by which the life and prosperity of society are maintained. They deprive isolated individuals of their legitimate influence, a circumstance which would be of less moment, if this influence were simply negatived, or neutralized. But it is transferred to persons utterly unworthy and incapable of its judicious exercise. By joining one of these combinations lewd fellows of the baser sort secure for themselves not only money which they have not earned, but sometimes a degree of power in the State such as only tried men of sterling character could safely be entrusted with. And this suggests the notorious fact that by the aid of these villainous combinations conscience is often quite got rid of, as a controlling or restraining principle of human nature. A corporation has no soul. It is equally true that a ring has no soul. In these societies what the sailors call a Round Robin shields the members from fear of responsibility to men as well as from dread of punishment from another, and perhaps to most of them, a less formidable power. All the artifices of direction of intention and mental reservation by which the Jesuits once corrupted the morals of men are familiar to these Ringmen. Like the disciples of ESCOBAR they are diligently trained how to tell the truth *tout bas* (so that no one shall hear it) and at the same time to tell a lie *tout haut* (in the ears of all the world). "To keep himself in a condition to appear on the witness-stand" is said to be one of the first principles inculcated upon the aspirant for Ring membership and honors. This, of course, means that the ingenious and ingenuous gentleman who participates in annular transactions involving the transfer of money, must have so managed as to be able to say *tout haut* "I had no *hand* in the matter"—or "I never spoke to him on the subject." These declarations being literally true, the honor of the witness is safe; while for their absolute and essential falsehood the Ring and not the individual is responsible.

Quite apart from the moral depravity of this system, one must see that its nature and tendency are antagonistic to Democratic institutions, and to society itself. It is barbarism of the worst kind in the midst of civilization. The Ringman is as infamous in fact and ought to be as infamous in name as the bandit.

THE PARDONING POWER.

Some time ago a rather loud and general clamor throughout the State was raised against Governor GRARY on account of his alleged abuse of the pardoning power. In Pittsburgh and its vicinity there seemed to be some reason for the complaint, as every person in this region could point to certain distinguished convictions whose circumstances had given them the clearest possible title to a residence in the penitentiary, who had been convicted upon the most conclusive evidence and to the satisfaction and with the approval of the entire community, as it seemed, and who, through the action of the Governor, were again at large. Naturally some indignation was excited among the people by so weak or injudicious an exercise of the prerogative of mercy. Influenced by the general condemnation to which we have referred, the Governor has wisely appended to his message "a report of pardons granted during the year 1869," with a statement attached to each case of the names of the persons who had asked for executive interference in behalf of the prisoner, and the reasons for granting it. We believe that this paper will be commonly regarded as completely justifying the Governor in the use which he has made of his high prerogative. No man, however stern or uncompromising in his notions of justice, could have disregarded the representations made in favor of the parties whom he was asked to pardon.

A man in the Executive chair capable of disregarding such testimonials in favor of a prisoner as were sent up from Allegheny county, supported by such names, would be positively dangerous. Quite likely as much might be said about the petitions from other sections. Indeed, from the terms in which the Governor refers to the subject in his message, we infer that he has been a good deal mystified by this pardon business. He says "if a tithe of the representations set forth were believed, *we would be led to suppose that our courts were daily guilty of the grossest wrongs.*" We learn that of the fifteen hundred and fifty-two applications for pardons, eleven hundred and eighty have been rejected, sixty-two have been granted, and three hundred and eighty are still under consideration. It seems that it has grown into a custom to regard an application for Executive clemency as an indispensable part of the machinery of criminal justice. We may add that there are people who make it their business to get up petitions of this kind, procure signatures to them and contrive to have them presented to the Governor under the most favorable auspices. Through the indifference of some, the mercenary character of others, the imbecile kindness of others, the fear of giving offense on the part of others, and the desire of influence on the part of others, it is not a difficult matter to get many names attached to such papers. The inevitable result of these operations is to undermine the very foundations of our penal administration. *It is not the severity, but the certainty of punishment that deters from crime.* By increasing the chances of impunity this pardon-brokerage is fast bringing in a condition of things which nothing but Vigilance Committees will be able to remedy.

PARTY ORGANS.

The London *Times* recently published a remarkable article, showing that the day for mere party organs has passed. The *Times* drew its conclusions from established facts; as, for instance, the demise of the London *Star* and *Herald*. The one was the organ of the extreme Liberals; the other was a high Tory organ, and made for itself a reputation, during the late rebellion, such as no patriotic American could allude to without an expression of contempt.

The gist of the *Times'* argument appears to be based upon the frequent necessary changes in the tone of a mere party organ, in its efforts to advocate a policy one day which it strenuously opposed another.

An exchange, commenting on the *Times'* article, expresses the opinion that its words have an application to those papers in this country which implicitly follow in the wake of their party—journals that approve everything said or done by its representatives and condemning everything said or done by its opponents, adding that it is in the highest degree creditable to the American people that it eschews such journals and gives its support to those which have opinions of their own, irrespective of any political party or any political leaders.

The fact is next adverted to that there is a large and growing class of journals which exercise the right to judge impartially of the acts of either party, though in the main advocating the claims of one of them.

It does not require much discrimination to perceive the advantage such a journal possesses over a journal controlled and hedged about by party restrictions, and whose daily utterances may be safely predicted beforehand. The average intelligence of the American people is too far advanced to accept the statements put forth by such journals as either final or conclusive. The journal that is independent enough to rise above party trammels whenever in its opinion the common good requires it, is sure to be appreciated by the people, and will always prosper and command respect when the blind organs are struggling for existence.

THE Philadelphia *Inquirer* applauds the outspoken sentiment of Governor GRARY in regard to the scramble for the State Treasurership, and advocates the removal of the cause by employing the unexpended balance for the benefit of the State. Says that paper:

"Undoubtedly there must be some secret reason for the last opposition of the Legislature to adopt a policy in regard to the surplus funds of the Treasury which is consonant with true financial management and good sense. For two years the Governor has deliberately disregarded the recommendations of the two years preceding, and during the whole time the members have been harassed by the incessant importunities of the aggressive partisans of rival aspirants. Until yesterday, perhaps, it has been a desperate effort to get any one of the two candidates to the Treasurership to make one who he did it now, and wishes to hold it again, another who held it once, and who considers he has been unfairly treated by the failure of his re-election in 1869. Even now, when we witness the willingness with which the members of the Legislature take sides in favor of the rival candidates, that they will pass a law which will decree that there shall be no importunity before the remaining two State Treasury? Will they be willing that the "state revenues beyond the necessary expenses shall be appropriated in the manner of the Federal Government, toward the reducing of the public debt?" We hope they will, although Governor GRARY speaks the words of truth soberness, his admonitions are likely to be disregarded and the surplus will be squandered."

Our contemporary, we think, places too low an estimate on public opinion and its power to control the action of the Legislature. While it is true that up to this time the calls of duty have been denied and the recipients of the unexpended balance have triumphed, public sentiment never before bore any resemblance to what it is at present. The tide is irresistible, and, although the Treasury Ring boast that the Legislature can be whipped into submission, we shall not believe it till we see all attempts at reform fail. Nevertheless the people should be awake and prepared to stand by Governor GRARY and the reformers at Harrisburg. The Republican press of the State should speak out and strengthen the representatives at the capitol. We are on the point of a great victory, and there should be no relaxation of effort on the part of reformers.

THE Finance Committee of the State Senate has been charged with an important investigation, and one that should be prosecuted with such diligence that a report will be made in time for its thorough consideration before the bills come up in the Legislature looking to reform in the State Treasury. It would be fortunate could a report be received from the Committee prior to the election on Wednesday next, but this, we judge, is hardly practicable. The text of Senator LOWRY's resolution is in these words.

That so much of the Governor's message as refers to the Treasury Department be referred to the Committee on Finance, and that the said committee is hereby instructed to inquire as to the manner and time at which the moneys now in the State Treasury and where and upon what conditions said moneys are kept; how the interest thereon has been paid; if moneys, or of the bonds held by the Commonwealth, and if so, from what sources; if any bonds have been sold for persons and papers and to place the State Treasurer under oath before the Committee.

Senator HOWARD, after this resolution passed, submitted another instructing the Committee to inquire into the practice of the State Treasurer for the last three years, thus making it cover the last year of Mr. KEMBLE's term, and the terms of General IRWIN and Mr. MACKEY. This is right; let us have all the facts that can be got out. If they can be elicited, it will strengthen the reform sentiment in the Legislature, and confirm the people in their determination. The Finance Committee of the Senate is an able one, consisting of Messrs. BILLINGFELT, HOWARD and MCINTIRE, Republicans, and WALLACE and MCINTIRE, Democrats. A majority, if not all of the members of this Committee, will strive to arrive at the truth of the investigation committed to their charge.

THE Treasury Ring threaten tremendous things if the Legislature dare to take from them the unexpended balance, or carry out one of the measures of reform demanded by the people. So the contest is still between the Ring and the Representatives of the people. The march of public sentiment has been steadily, slowly, yet surely, to the point of complete mastery over the corruptionists. This they perceive, and their desperation is unbounded. But the reformers, backed by the people, will give not an inch. With them there is no step backward. Instead of compromising about the unexpended balance on the terms proposed by Mr. Treasurer MACKEY in his report, by giving the State "some" of the benefits of the surplus funds, they will just give that gentleman a suitable salary wherewith he can contemplate the luxury of earning an honest living. The Treasury Ring can doubtless afford to bid high to stop measures of reform, especially the one which will take away their corruption fund. But public sentiment has reached a point when no amount of money will compensate Republican representatives for betraying it. No wonder the Ring abuse the COMMERCIAL, for this is our triumph and their defeat. With the people, the Governor and Legislature on our side; better still, with the corruptionists themselves compelled to get down on their knees, and promise, at our feet, we can well afford to be abused. It is a state of things to be sincerely thankful for. An eel was never more jolly while being skinned than are the Treasury Ring over the situation!

DOES any one believe that Mr. MACKEY has received but $1,700, which is the salary fixed by law as the pay of State Treasurer? Other emoluments are expressly forbidden by law, and yet Governor GRARY does not hesitate to say that fortunes are acquired by the "unlawful use of State funds and "subsidies from sources that dare not be "revealed to the public, because they are "positively prohibited by law, under penal"ties of no ordinary magnitude." Such is the universal belief, and the proof that it is well founded is on the face of things. Remarking on the subject, the Philadelphia *Telegraph* well says:

Even the officials at Harrisburg should begin to have a faint glimmering of the fact, universally recognized elsewhere, that the enrichment of Treasurers, their favorites, and their Legislative supporters, is to their official ruin. It is a crime, indeed. And if these officials resort to practices which, in the language of the Governor, are "positively prohibited by law under penalties of no ordinary magnitude," or in plainer English, which subject them to incarceration in the Penitentiary, we hope the day is not far distant when the people will cease to be so powerless as they now are to punish the corrupt, base and faithless enough to prosecute their corrupt enterprises, and to place a whip in every honest hand to lash the rascals through the land.

It is clearly the duty of the Attorney General to institute proceedings to establish the truth of Gov. GRARY's charge of corruption.

THINGS seem not to be going right with the ring, and "the organ" is in a terrible state of mind. The prospect of losing the "unexpended balance" in future seems to have filled them with consternation. The substantial victory of the reformers in the demonstrated strength of popular sentiment opens to their vision a gloomy prospect, and the grim attempts at restraining their wrath are in the highest degree amusing. On the contrary, we are serene in view of the unfolding future. It is something to live for—to see the CAMERONS and whole tribe of pinchers and roosters scrambling to the rear, as reformers, while MACKEY exposes to divide the unexpended balance with the State. With us, "principles, not men," is the motto. The difference between us and the corruptionists is, that we triumph and they go down, in the fact that in the first days of the session half a dozen bills were introduced looking to the very reforms for which we have earnestly labored. In the march of public sentiment we experience a degree of satisfaction measured only by the wrath of the prodigate rings whose days are numbered.

THE action of Speaker STINSON in placing Senator BILLINGFELT at the head of the Committee on Finance, in that body, is especially gratifying, and will be warmly applauded as an important step in the work of reform. Mr. BILLINGFELT is an inflexibly honest or faithful legislator the State has never had than Senator BILLINGFELT. To him and his efforts a great deal is due for the political reforms which are on the eve of consummation, especially in regard to the public funds and the office of Treasurer. Speaker STINSON deserves and will receive the thanks of sincere reformers for promoting Senator BILLINGFELT to a position of so much importance, and for which he is so well qualified.

THE Treasury Ring, after a protracted struggle, which taxed their resources and peculiar tactics to the utmost, "put the MACKEY slate through" yesterday. Reports are rife of extraordinary money transactions in this connection, and instances of known violation of pledges by representatives to their constituents, are not few. Probably on no former occasion has the Ring been so hard pressed, or has it resorted to agencies so desperate to achieve success. Senator CAMERON managed the machinery in person. Every auxiliary that could be thought of was brought in to assist, and if half that is reported be true, the atmosphere of Harrisburg was never before so heavy with pollution. But it will be a barren victory, unless, indeed, the Ring possesses resources sufficient to control the Legislature against an overwhelming public sentiment, to prevent the Legislature from reforming the Treasury system. We firmly believe that Mr. MACKEY will have to be content with a proper salary and no unexpended balance during his new term; so that the outlay of money and character by the Ring will practically be lost. The number of votes cast in the caucus was 58—a full caucus would be 79. Two paired off. Therefore 19 Republicans were absent. Much interest was felt in Harrisburg last night, about what these nineteen would do.

THE anxiety of the organs of the ring to forecast the official course of Mr. Speaker STRANG, by ridiculing the idea that he will turn his back upon their plundering schemes, can hardly be esteemed a compliment to that gentleman's integrity. They interpret his inaugural as nothing but bosh. The people, hopeful of a better state of things at Harrisburg, have accepted it as the rule of his legislative action. Time will show which is right. On one point we have specific instead of general professions from Mr. STRANG; and that is as to reform in the disposition of the unexpended balance. He assumes the position of the COMMERCIAL; and has stated, in no uncertain words, that it must be used in the interest of the State and not in that of individuals. He favors paying the State Treasurer a fixed salary, and barring his use of the State funds in private and dangerous speculations. As such a policy is one that will destroy the power of the Treasury ring, we do not wonder that its acceptance by the Speaker troubles them. Of course we cannot guarantee his fidelity to the proposed reform; but we believe in it despite the anxiety of the organs of the corruptionists to make it appear otherwise.

THE piece of sharp experience through which our Government has just passed, with reference to ocean postal service, is at once humiliating and instructive—humiliating because we were made to feel keenly how absolutely dependent we are on British steamers; instructive because it has taught us that so long as Congress refuses to grant subsidy to American lines, this condition of dependence will continue. It was the Cunard line which "struck" and lost our mails, thanks to the energy of Postmaster General CRESWELL. But it is not much satisfaction after all, since the mails were transferred to another British line, perhaps at a rate higher than we have been paying. The experience cannot fail to stimulate a feeling in and out of Congress in favor of subsidizing an American line, which can be done by an annual grant of a quarter of a million of dollars. This would be required for a few years. We ought to be not less liberal than the English Government, which extends a heavy subsidy to the Cunarders.

THE prospect of holding his office on a comfortable salary, and no perquisites arising from an unexpended balance, or other source, appears to have soured the sweet temper of the Treasurer and the ring of which he is head center. We know of no one whom we would more cheerfully see earning an honest living, than that gentleman. A more satisfactory state of things it would be difficult to imagine. To have been the means of producing such a consummation is to us in the highest degree gratifying. Unfortunately for him we do not find it consistent to accept his offer to compromise by permitting the State to have "*some* benefit from the unexpended balance." We cannot yield an inch, and must insist that the State shall have *all* the benefit that can be derived therefrom. The appeal, piteous though it be, cannot be listened to for an instant!

THE latest convert to the doctrine steadily preached by the COMMERCIAL in regard to the unexpended balance, is Mr. Treasurer MACKEY. In his annual report he is represented as recommending that the usual expended balance be employed for the benefit of the State, that the bail of the Treasurer be increased. Such a conversion to public sentiment we scarcely looked for, and we have considerable hope that if it is genuine and nothing happens to interfere with his aspirations, Mr. MACKEY may yet enter upon a career in which we can consistently give him our approval. We prefer, however, to place him on probation. Hardened sinners should be accepted with caution, be their professions ever so ardent. Between their actions and professions there frequently is a strange inconsistency.

CHARLES DICKENS explains himself, in another speech delivered at Birmingham, on Thursday evening last. This is right. His epigrammatic utterance that his faith in the people governed was illimitable, but quite the reverse as to the people governing, was a puzzle that the people of England and America cudgeled their brains over for a long while without arriving at a common conclusion. Some declared it indicated toryism and others the most rampant radicalism. Fortunately Mr. DICKENS has put an end to all doubts, by another speech at the same place, in which he explicitly declares that he "puts infinite trust in the masses; "none whatever in the the so-called ruling "class." This declaration has a significance in England which does not attach to it in the United States.

THE friends of Economy, Retrenchment and Reform should prepare to resist the assaults which the supporters of profligacy and extravagance are preparing to make on their ranks. It is no compliment, nevertheless it is true, that certain ring leaders openly boast that three weeks will suffice to seduce a sufficient number to prevent contemplated measures of reform, more especially the thorough overhauling of the Treasury system which the people so emphatically demand. There is no sort of doubt that such an expectation is entertained. Nor does this rest on conjecture alone. The boast has been openly made; and in view of the effect which economy and retrenchment will have on the fortunes of rings and individuals, the supporters of such policy should have a thorough understanding, so that their work may be done with thoroughness.

SENATOR RUTAN wants to investigate the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. What are the specific charges we do not know, but if anything is wrong, let there be an investigation by all means. People will have their own notions concerning Senator RUTAN's zeal, and the source whence it proceeds. If he is so anxious to investigate men and things, it is suggested that he had better investigate the direct and damaging charge by Gov. GRARY concerning the misuse of the public funds by the State Treasurer. Here is a field into which there is a broad invitation; and any Senator overlooking it for something less tangible and not relating to the public service will run the risk of exposing himself to the suspicion of having some other than the lofty purpose which should influence public servants.

THE Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press* says: "The Governor of the Commonwealth has now added his voice to the general mistrust of legislative irregularity, thus giving to the whole subject a greater interest than ever it possessed. I do not hesitate to utter my firm faith that the present Legislature will be a great improvement over any that have preceded it." Still the Treasury Ring openly boast that three weeks will suffice to bring the Legislature under their thumb. The Republicans of the State will wait and see to what extent the Ring will make the boast good.

THERE is reason to suppose that the purchase of Cuba from Spain by the United States may not be far off. Both factions at Madrid are said to be secretly in favor of the sale, and the acquisition of the island in this way would be a popular measure in this country. Even now negotiations may be going on preliminary to the purchase. Free Cuba, free coffee, free sugar, wouldn't be a bad idea.

THE *Herald* correspondent at Washington professes to have news that the Cuban revolution is virtually at an end. On the contrary, the *Sun* professes to have news from Havana of the patriotic and final ending. Surely it would grieve the friends of freedom in the United States to know that the first report was well based, and gladden their hearts to be assured that the *Sun's* dispatches are trustworthy.

TELEGRAPHING.

A Labor Saving System One of the Results of the Strike of the Operatives.

A result of the telegraph strike is likely to be renewed impulsion given to the invention of labor saving instruments, enabling telegraph companies to dispense with a good many bridges in their present army of operators. Such an instrument has been invented by Mr. Little, and will be put in operation over the wires of the National Telegraph Company when these wires get themselves built. We have heretofore referred to Mr. Little's invention in the COMMERCIAL, but at the present time the philosophy of it is worth stating briefly. As the reader understands, Intelligence is now sent over telegraph wires by a continuous electric current broken at longer or shorter intervals, the breaks, too, varying in length. These breaks and these intervals between the breaks made at the transmitting end, are heard or recorded at the receiving end, constitute a sign language, easily translated from dots and dashes into letters and words. The present limits upon the speed of transmitting this sign language are two. The human hand cannot make more of the needful muscular contractions in an hour than those required of an operator in sending say one thousand words. At the receiving end, the capacity of the ear to discriminate sounds from silence, and sounds of varying length from each other, may pass the muscular limit of the hand, but certainly it has a limit of its own. Little's invention is based upon the extension of both limits. He breaks the current ten times faster than fingers can push and withdraw. He records these breaks, in all their variety of length and of length, faster than the ear can hear. It hears only a continuous hum at either end. The breaks are made by passing properly perforated paper, itself ten conducting, through the path of the current. They are recorded on properly sensitivized paper in which the chemicals are decomposed by the electric current and leave a dark compound behind, and this action in the paper-ribbon at the transmitting station, and, of course, are as easily read. An essential part of the invention is the perforating machine, which, since it can work not much faster than a Morse operator, must be multiplied and each manned by a separate operator to keep even one wire busy. The saving is expected to be in the cost of the less skilled labor required for the perforators and for the wires used to carry a given amount of business.

CAPITAL REMOVAL.

The Plans of the St Louis Advocates of the Enterprise.

We learn from the St. Louis *Democrat* that in the event of the removal of the capital to the Mississippi Valley, "the day of talk has been succeeded by an era of effective action." The effective action is the organization of Committees to raise funds and take a trip to Washington. It is stated, on the authority, that a Congressional organization has been formed in Washington composed of members who will sustain the enterprise, and labor for its success. The object is to induce Congress. This organization was started on the 8th of December and now numbers nearly eighty members. General John A. Logan, of Illinois, is Chairman, and Hon. John Coburn, of Indiana, the Secretary. Mr. Coburn writes that the organization "hopes to overcome all large appropriations" at this session. Hon. S. H. Boyd, M. C., of Missouri, in a letter to the St. Louis *Democrat*, says:

"We confidently rely on seventy-four members of the House to vote against appropriations and for removal. Of course, I do not know how they will vote, but I have yet to work on; and the beauty of the movement is, we have a large majority in the House, and can sit on any thing about it. * * * Our first attack is aimed at the Capitol extension grab. If we succeed in that, then we will raise our banner—On to the Valley of the Mississippi and the Queen of the Achilles."

And Yet Another Translation.

"While he was yet speaking another came."—Job.

Dum loquor hinnulea veniunt gemelli
Pongerum lateralis cornaque turres.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In common with those who take an interest in the prosperity and general development of this goodly city of ours, I have been reading the communications on the subject of our internal improvements, which have appeared lately in your paper. At present there seems to be two great proposed improvements before the public mind, viz.: The ship, or enlarged canal, between our city and the great lakes at Erie, an improvement that no sane man would for a moment discourage; because, in my opinion, no man can estimate the benefits that would accrue, first to our city, next to Erie, and third to the whole line of route through which it passes. But, sir, to fully develope this canal, or to fully understand how very valuable this ethical improvement can be made, there are some things that must be understood. First, the iron ores of Lake Superior, or at least the mass of them which will pass through this canal, are of such a character that you must have an entirely different character of iron to mix with them, either in the blast furnace or in the puddling furnace, to make what is generally known as neutral iron, this being the kind of iron which must be produced for practical and every day uses. A very large quantity of iron made from Lake Superior ores, also from Mountain ores, (both of which will pass this canal) can be had in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, and a neutralizer for said iron is absolutely necessary, which at present and for years past it has been: difficult to obtain. These facts are patent to every iron man in this section of our country, and iron men have been looking around for years to find a suitable neutralizer to suit the iron proposed.

I am pleased to be able to state that the proposed railroad along the valley of the Monongahela, and bringing that to the Pittsburgh-scale river, there could not be a better road on which to view grand and noble scenery. The wealth that lies in the hills and on the magnificent bottoms is immense. It cannot be told. It must be seen by years to come will be as fertile as it is to-day. That such a road would pay there is not the shadow of doubt. There cannot be a competing road for a hundred miles east or west. The whole travel of the Monongahela Valley, including